

# SBARA's Groundplane

November 2007

Volume 8 Issue 11

The monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association

Fremont, Ca.

## Presidents Message—Steve Wilson, KA6S

As usual, it's been a busy month for yours truly. We attended Pacificon a few weeks ago. I was in my Boy Scout uniform since I took four boys from my Troop to the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). The bands were TERRIBLE. We did manage to make a single contact to another JOTA group in Bend, Oregon. All of the boys got to listen in. I didn't get a chance to attend any of the programs other than JOTA, but did see a whole host of friends including several of our prominent club members ;-). I also met our new Section Manager - and he seems to be a nice guy.

I guess the biggest news I received from Pacificon concerns the 440 band. If you weren't aware, we have secondary status on this band. The primary user is the US Department of Defense. There are two radar sites in the US that have been recently up-graded and will be using the entire band for missile defense purposes. One of these happens to be Beale Air Force Base right here in Northern CA. The DOD and FCC have asked ARRL to coordinate efforts to try and coordinate efforts to get amateur repeaters on the band that are interfering with Radar to modify their operating parameters - reducing power by some times 60db being the prime cure. The ARRL has received a dead-line for compliance from the first list of repeaters that were notified which I believe is some time in November. It IS possible that the DOD could enforce up to 150 mile quiet zone around Beale, so it is in our best interest to cooperate. Obviously, some repeaters are going off the air because there will be no mitigation that can stop them from interfering.

We don't have a speaker scheduled for our next meeting because we would like to designate it as HomeBrew nite. Bring your latest toys and show them off to the rest of the club (that means you Adam, Mike and Bernhard!) All are welcome to show off their efforts.

Finally, we'll have the Pre-meeting dinner at the usual place. Chili Garden at 3241 Walnut Ave starting at 6pm. Hope to see you there!



### Home Brew Night

Come with all those neat home—made projects that you have been working on and share them with your fellow "HAMS"

See you on the 9th @  
6PM....



Join your fellow SBARA Hams for dinner at 6 PM Friday evening. We'll meet at Chili Garden on Walnut Avenue. This is a great way to learn about some really cool products and overall good discussions!!

## Sweepstakes a Contest — By Bernhard and Al

CQ TEST de ... – that's what you often hear when screening through the HF bands on weekends. Almost any weekend there is some contest going on. The most famous Norh American contest is without any doubt the Fieldday on the last June weekend every year. However, for serious contesters the Sweepstakes every first weekend in November is probably the highlight of the year.

The Sweepstakes contest, when done according to the rules, requires the operators to be „BIS“ for 24 hours. BIS is „Butt In Seat!“ The contest lasts for 30 hours, a total of six hours break has to be taken within this period of time.

Both Al, WT6K, and me, Bernhard, AE6YN, have never done anything like this before. So it was a first for us when we decided to „test a test“ this year.

Preparations took quite some time. Al prepared N1MM (the contest logger [1]), made sure his FT1000 was up to the task, connected a 500W power amplifier and got batteries for it. On Friday I took the day off and helped Al with further preparations. Friday evening we joined in on the, on-the-air' practice. Reality set in when we couldn't copy all the exchange because of the length of the exchange and speed of the operators. Fear set in and the stress level skyrocketed inside both of us.

Saturday: Both operators did not sleep very well before the contest day started. More work was done, we set up a 20m phased array – this took time almost until contest start. It actually caused quite a headache, and it currently seems not to work at its optimum: we seem to have a bad contact somewhere. Well, Murphy just hits whenever he can! Apart from that, we had to do some serious landscaping in Al's backyard, because there was a lot of weed and bushes in the way...

And then the contest began. Wow, those folks on the bands are FAST! But soon we learned how to handle the stream of input. After a while we got accustomed to higher speed and jumped on stations which were really fast. Of course we often had to ask back for some information. The Sweepstakes contest requires a lot of information in the exchange: i.e., the callsign, the number of the current contact(123, etc), a single alpha character (A, B, M, U) that represents the class you're in (QRO/QRP, Multi-operator, and so on), the check digits (the last two digits of the year the operator got his first license, i.e., 56 for WT6K) and the section (EB – East Bay). In our case the string sent was like; W1AW.... 413 M WT6K 56 EB" – and similar strings were to be received and decoded correctly. Accuracy is an important part of the contest.

(Cont'd. on page three)

## 160 Meter Sweepstakes — Bill Artelt, WB9YVM

The best time to work 160/pm is coming up at the end of the month...

Nov. 30, 2200z (Friday night) the ARRL 160 meter CW contest is on...

Check QST Nov 2007, p.102 for more information.

My 160 rig won't do LSB so this CW contest is the best for me.

I have worked many states on 160 meters with a 10 foot whip.

Don't forget to use a big insulator if you bottom feed a 10 foot whip at hi-z.

Put it on your calendar...

These contest guys run big antennae and high power.

# SBARA Leadership Elections 2008

November is SBARA election month. Would you consider helping your club? Volunteer for a position.....

## ELECTED POSITIONS

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURE

SECRETARY

## APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

WEBMASTER

EDITOR - PIO

CIRCULATION

MEMBERSHIP

RAFFLE COORDINATOR

QUARTERMASTER

PROGRAMS

PHOTOGRAPHER

REFRESHMENTS

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

*2008 Leadership Team Nominations will be taken from the floor up to 10 minutes before the election at the SBARA meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

## Sweepstakes — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

(Cont'd. from page two) We made just over 400 contacts, which is a low number if you look up to the experts who easily make 1200 and more contacts in the same timeframe... But hey: for a first time this is probably not so bad!

A lot was learned during the contest time. Building up CW speed is part of the game, and programs like RUFZ [2] help a lot to achieve this. However there is probably some need for a highspeed CW net – the testers are *really* fast! Tactics are to be learned, too. In the SP mode (Search and Pounce) do you wait around listening to a station until they are finished with , their current QSO, or do you leave them and tune up/down the band hoping that the next station is sending CQ and is ready to work you?

Anyways, we had fun, and it was a good experience. As usual, teaming up boosts effectivity, together you

can handle stressful times more easily. By splitting our operation times we could get some more rest during the contest.

If you want to try contesting yourself: you can find the contest rules on the ARRL website [3]. You don't need to work full time: the other operators appreciate if you just give them some additional score! We had at the end of the contest several people logged who had made less than ten contacts: these folks just donated some score points to us!

Bernhard, AE6YN

# Treasurers Report, November — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

Dear Reader,

Another year is almost over. This is the last issue of the Groundplane this year, and you are reading the last treasurer's report of the year 2007. 2007 was very good again. Our club is blessed with very active members who raise funds and work hard on several projects to improve the clubs strengths.

During the field day we found that phased arrays are superior antennas: money to build some for 15, 20 and 40 meters (two sets each, CW and SSB!) is available now. Prototypes are in progress already. Monies came from a lot of swap meeting visits where we sold fieldday raffle tickets, and of course from the Zucchini festival. I'm looking forward to a great Fieldday 2008!

Wow, so much happened this year – ham radio is such a great hobby. Apart from fieldday I had the opportunity to visit the Jamesburg satellite dish to try out EME (see Groundplane August issue this year), to get involved with the Stratofox crew, to learn what APRS is about (see Groundplane September issue this year), to be part of a General Class teaching team and to go into my first (non-fieldday) contest: together with Al (WT6K) I went through the Sweepstakes this weekend. There was – of course – the Pacificon. I could not resist and bought an Elecraft KX1 kit, which is about 80% complete now.

Ah yes, and I experienced my first earthquake. Are you prepared? I am, since I am also engaged with the Community Emergency Response Team. They are always looking out for radio amateurs. Working in this team is interesting and a lot of fun. The things you learn there may come in handy at some time...

SBARA has a great diversity of members. Through

SBARA I had the opportunity to look into all these things, and I'm sure most of you had similar experiences. Please: support your club!

I wrote the following last year and found that it is still valid:

*By the way: are you an ARRL member? The ARRL offers great extras, e.g. the QST magazine. The ARRL „Handbook“ is famous around the globe. ARRL Membership costs less than forty dollars a year. Did you know that you can apply through the SBARA for an ARRL membership, and that you can also renew your ARRL membership through us? If you do, we do all the bureaucratic stuff for you, and the SBARA can even keep a little part of your payment.*

*The upcoming November meeting is a bit special. The board members for the next year are being elected. I hope you liked my work as SBARA treasurer: I have decided to run for another year. Please come and vote!*

Bernhard, AE6YN / DL4MHK  
SBARA treasurer



Al, WT6K, BIS @ Sweepstakes 2007.

He currently puts in a filter on his FT1000. The TenTec amplifier is the box with the green light, left to the monitor, below the digital clock. The screen shows N1MM running (hard to see on this image).



#### Links:

[1] N1MM is a powerful free contest logger program, running under Windows. It can be found at <http://pages.ctime.net/n1mm/>.

[2] RUFZ (called after the German word „Rufzeichen“ = callsign) is a free Windows program, it can be obtained at <http://www.rufzxp.net/>. Really great for improving CW speed!

[3] American Radio Relay League; <http://www.arrl.net/>

## SBARA CW Practice Group — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

### SBARA CW Practice Group

Dear CW enthusiast (or prospective enthusiast),  
There was an accident during preparation of the last Groundplane issue. Some information was mixed up and we listed incorrect dates and frequencies for our CW schedule. The correct data for our CW practicing is every:

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 4 p.m.

on

21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

We will slow down for you, don't be scared away

if somebody is really fast there! Just send a „bk“ and your callsign, we will adjust to your skills. We will also be able to listen to and to send SSB, usually we do some short chat in SSB at the end of our practice rounds.

Looking forward to meet you on 15m!

Isaac, KI6DIL, Amanda, AF6YL, Al, WT6K and I would be happy to meet you, too!

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net



# Happenings — By Adam Feriante, ND6N

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Event Name / Description</u>	<u>Website</u>
November 10	SBARA Meeting—Officer Elections	<a href="http://www.sbara.org">www.sbara.org</a>
November 17	Transmitter Hunt - 5PM Foxes Choice	<a href="http://www.thunt.org">www.thunt.org</a>
December 1	Transmitter Hunt - Fremont	<a href="http://www.thunt.org">www.thunt.org</a>
December 2	Livermore Swap Meet	<a href="http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html">www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html</a>
December 7	<b>SBARA Holiday Dinner-At the Veterans Hall in Niles</b>	<a href="http://www.sbara.org">www.sbara.org</a>
December 15	Transmitter Hunt - No T-Hunt	<a href="http://www.thunt.org">www.thunt.org</a>
December 25	Christmas	
December 29	Transmitter Hunt - Pack A Lunch?	<a href="http://www.thunt.org">www.thunt.org</a>
December 31	SKN—Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">www.arrl.org</a>
January 5, 2008	Transmitter Hunt - Fremont	<a href="http://www.thunt.org">www.thunt.org</a>
January 8	One day License Class & Exam	<a href="http://Www.bears.com">Www.bears.com</a>
January 11	SBARA Meeting—First meeting of the New Year!	<a href="http://www.sbara.org">www.sbara.org</a>
January 12	Brad Douglas KB8UYR/6-"Mapping WiFi networks in your neighborhood"	<a href="http://www.sbara.org">www.sbara.org</a>
January 19	Transmitter Hunt - Foxes Choice - KN6FW - 5:00pm!	<a href="http://www.thunt.org">www.thunt.org</a>

## ARES Repeater Information

We recently have been contacted by an Alameda County Water District representative about use of ACWD UHF repeater. Fremont ARES wants to encourage everyone to utilize the

**441.125 + PL100.0.**

The site in the Coyote Hills will make it an ideal repeater to hit locations in the Fremont Hills formerly inaccessible to

VHF/UHF traffic. At a future date we hope to officially include it in our emergency communication plan after negotiations are complete. Come and join us!!

Jeffrey Koger

Fremont EC

KG6NEB

KG6NEB@ARRL.NET

**South Bay Amateur Radio  
Association**  
**Founded 1974**  
**Mailing Address**  
**Box 8377**  
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**Web Site — [www.sbara.org](http://www.sbara.org)**

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**Program Facilitator**

Al Rendon, WT6K

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Amanda & Isaac Feriante  
AF6YL and KI6DIL

**Board Members at Large**

Lloyd Hartshome, N6DOK  
Sam Severs, WS6S

**Fremont Repeaters & Net Information**

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

CW - Tuesday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 4 p.m.  
on 21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

The [South Bay Amateur Radio Association](http://www.sbara.org) is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for

new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at the Veterans Hall in Niles (Fremont), California. The meeting begins at 7:30

PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

For those who would like to upgrade their licenses, here's an alternative testing opportunity. The Silicon Valley VE Group has scheduled regular test sessions every alternate Saturday morning at the HP facility in Cupertino. The ARRL site shows the following info for this Saturday, information:

\*Sponsor:\* SILICON  
VALLEY VE GROUP

\*Time:\* 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
\*Contact:\* MORRIS E JONES  
(408)507-4698  
\*Email:\*  
AD6ZH@ARRL.NET  
<mailto:AD6ZH@ARRL.NET>  
\*VEC:\* ARRL/VEC  
<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/vecs.html>>  
\*Location:\* HEWLETT  
PACKARD  
19333 VALLCO PKWY  
BLDG #2  
TESTS START BETWEEN  
8-10:30AM

MAP N37 19.490  
W122 00.568  
CUPERTINO, CA 95014

In addition, these sessions are planned every two weeks through at least the end of May (March 17, April 7, April 21...).



### Club Classifieds

**List your items  
for sale or trade  
here.**

Let other club members know about the gear you wish to sell, trade, need, etc. Send your info to [BB.Arrl@WB9YVM](mailto:BB.Arrl@WB9YVM) before the 15th of each month to get it in the next month's newsletter. Limit your classified to 25 words or less. Ham Radio, Computer, or electronic related items only please. Listings are posted for 1 month, resubmit for additional months. Listings are first-come-first-serve, limited to space available. We reserve the right to edit content.

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(Near Disneyland)  
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**(800) 854-6046**  
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.  
anaheim@hamradio.com

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**(800) 644-4476**  
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**Low Pricing!**





# Announcements

SBARA's monthly meeting is November 9th.

Veterans Hall in Niles

Have you thought about running for an office? If so, think about taking on one of the SBARA Board positions. Our November meeting is the 2008 Board Member Elections. SBARA could really use your leadership!!

The Ground Plane — KU6S  
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